THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Investment in infrastructure is an ongoing process. There is, however, no joint plan of Ministry of Civil Aviation with the Ministry of Railways in building the infrastructure over the next five years.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Delay in AM 88 flight

2111. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a broken pipe was found in the toilet of aircraft on AI-188 flight which took off from Toronto airport on the 18th September, 2006 and had to return to Toronto after an hour flight as a result thereof;

(b) if so, whether the incident has been probed; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) A cylindrical packet (5" long and 1" Diameter) with some engineering tools was found in the toilet of the said aircraft after departure of flight AI-188 from Toronto on 18.09.2006. After the incident, an investigation was initiated by Peel Regional Police (Toronto). Air India had also conducted an 'on the spot enquiry into the incident. The primary enquiry by the Security Manager, Air India, New York indicated lapse on the part of 2 employees of M/s. Garda's (Security Agency) who had carried out security checks on that flight in Toronto. Till the investigations are completed, M/s. Garda (Security Agency) has been asked to ensure non-deployment of the above employees on Air India flights. Air India had also given them notice for invoking the penal provisions in the contract for handling of Air India flights. In response, the said agency has given notice for termination of the contract.

Promotion of regional airlines

2112. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to promote regional airlines, Government are

planning to exempt their carriers from paying airport and navigation charges in the first five years of operation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government are also contemplating to extend subsidy to airlines on bidding basis to promote regional connectivity including the North East and Jammu and Kashmir; and

(c) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The proposals to promote regional connectivity and regional airlines are under consideration of the Government as part of New Draft Civil Aviation Policy.

New airport at Ludhiana

2113. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have given the approval of an airport in Ludhiana in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details of the project; and

(c) whether this new project will affect the working of airport at Amritsar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There is proposal for construction of a Civil Enclave at Halwara Defence Airfield near Ludhiana in the State of Punjab.

(b) The project, *inter-alia* includes construction of a terminal building, civil apron, strengthening of runway, installation of ground lightings, installation of communication equipments, construction of cargo and extension of runway etc.

(c) No, Sir.

Operation of Pune airport

2114. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the Government's decision on a civilian airport at Pune and by when it would be operational?